



WEDNESDAY
November 26, 1958
6:44 p.m.

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to WISH
[initials]*

TELEPHONE CALL TO THE PRESIDENT IN AUGUSTA

The Sec said the VP has been invited to go to Berlin *AC saw* and the Sec thinks it would be psychologically a good gesture. But policy decisions we may have to make will not be cleared by then and there is some danger that things will happen that will make you a prisoner later on as to what you do. But the Sec thought he should have the Pres' reaction. The Pres said if he goes to see and to listen and not to make a speech or a statement on his own right - he has in London - so if he calls on the Mayor - as this is an outpost of the West - but not say what our intentions are at all because the Russians would take that as a deliberate provocation. If he must say something then the Pres would be doubtful. The Sec said that would be difficult. The Sec said he could confine himself as the Sec did to a reaffirmation of the statement made earlier. The Sec did this in May. The Pres said in this case the US has been constant both in its policies and principles period. Consequently it is impossible for us to think of withdrawing. The Sec told of his press conf etc. The Pres said whenever people start hounding him he cuts them off. The Sec said he had to today. The Pres said if the trip can be interpreted as a thing to give them confidence and is not deliberately set up to be a provocation then the Pres thinks it is all right. Just say we are not getting up and making belligerent speeches - we have been constant in our agreements with other nations and later with Free Germany. We do our

duty and that is what we are doing. So we are faithful to our principles, to our duty and to our friends.

pdb